

March 4, 2021

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of House Finance,

Pass the Nursing Home Safe Staffing and Quality Care Act (H5012 & S2).

I've been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 31 years. That whole time I've worked at the same nursing home, now it's called Pawtucket Falls, on Gill St. in Pawtucket. You kind of have to be a special kind of person to be a CNA. You have to love what you do, you have to love your patients. There's good and bad in every job, but going into work every day taking care of my patients makes me feel good.

When we work short, the patients don't get the care they deserve. If we're short, I don't have the time to sit and cut nails or do the extra things that bring the patients joy. It's just a hectic rush. We're a family on our floor, I have the same patients every day. But when we work short, we have a bigger assignment and sometimes we have different residents. I have one resident who, every time we work short, thinks I'm mad at her because I don't take care of her those days.

The staff get agitated when we work short, too, because we just have so much to do and the residents get aggravated because it takes us longer to answer lights and do the things they need.

The other big problem when we work short is the patients stay in bed or in their chair longer. They just sit or lie in bed all day. Sometimes if they have to wait, they try to get in bed or go to the bathroom themselves, and that's a big fall risk. And then there's less staff on the floors to keep an eye on them. That's an even bigger problem now because they're all in their rooms because of COVID.

Our building has been owned by five different companies over the 31 years I've been there. These big companies always say they don't have money for safe staffing, but they seem to make plenty of money. The last company that owned us was Genesis Healthcare. You might have seen them in the news because they gave their CEO a \$5 million bonus. But our residents couldn't get safe staffing. The CEOs make out, and we and the patients suffer.

That's why we need the Nursing Home Safe Staffing and Quality Care Act. Our residents deserve safe staffing.

Thank you,

Deborah Armfield, CNA Pawtucket